

## **Minutes of the September 11, 2017 Board of Emergency Medical Services Meeting**

Dr. James Smith, Chairperson, called the meeting of the Board of Emergency Medical Services to order at 9:07 a.m. on Monday, September 11, 2017 in the Lighthouse Room at the Country Inn and Suites located at 5353 North 27th Street, Lincoln, Nebraska. The meeting was duly publicized by distribution of the Notice of Meeting and Agenda at least ten (10) days prior to the meeting and posting the agenda at the entrance of the Department of Health and Human Services Division of Public Health at least twenty-four (24) hours prior to the meeting.

Dr. Smith announced that this is a public meeting and the Open Meetings Law is posted.

The following Board members were present at the meeting: Mike Bailey, Randy Boldt, Dr. John Bonta, Karen Bowlin, Dr. Thomas Deegan, Ann Fiala, Troy Hiemer, Linda Jensen, Dr. Mike Miller, Carl Rennerfeldt, and Dr. James Smith.

Joel Cerny, Don Harmon, Charles LaFollette, and Scott Wiebe were absent from the meeting. Carl Rennerfeldt joined after the meeting started. Dr. Bonta left prior to the end of the meeting.

Also present were: Claire Covert-ByBee, Program Manager; Tim Wilson, Program Manager; Jacye LaFayette-Dymacek, Health Licensing Coordinator; Lisa Anderson, Assistant Attorney General; Teresa Hampton, Department Legal Counsel; Russ Fosler, Administrator; Dennis Scott, Program Manager; and Investigators Sharon Fitts, Trevor Klaassen, Kathleen Krueger, and Mark Meyerson.

After discussion, Ms. Jensen moved, seconded by Ms. Fiala to adopt the agenda moving item number 22 to item number 3. Voting aye: Bailey, Boldt, Bonta, Bowlin, Deegan, Fiala, Hiemer, Jensen, Miller, and Smith. Voting nay: None. Absent: Cerny, Harmon, LaFollette, Rennerfeldt, and Wiebe. Motion carried.

After discussion, Dr. Miller moved, seconded by Ms. Fiala to approve the minutes reflecting the motion made at the July 17, 2017 Board meeting to correct the April 24, 2017 Board Meeting minutes. Voting aye: Bailey, Boldt, Bonta, Bowlin, Deegan, Fiala, Hiemer, Jensen, Miller, and Smith. Voting nay: None. Absent: Cerny, Harmon, LaFollette, Rennerfeldt, and Wiebe. Motion carried.

Dr. Eric Ernest presented the Stroke Protocol to the Board for approval. Levi Bauer, Division Director of Orthopedics, Neurosciences, and Spine Care for CHI Health, and Dr. Vishal Jani, NeuroInterventional Surgeon for CHI Health spoke in opposition of the protocol. After discussion, Dr. Bonta moved, seconded by Mr. Boldt to approve the protocol as presented. Voting aye: Bailey, Boldt, Bonta, Bowlin, Deegan, Fiala, Hiemer,

Miller, and Smith. Voting nay: None. Abstaining: Jensen. Absent: Cerny, Harmon, LaFollette, Rennerfeldt, and Wiebe. Motion carried.

Dr. Thomas Williams spoke to the Board regarding the proposed emergency regulations relating to EpiPens. Dr. Williams provided the Board with a Hazard Risk Assessment Matrix. Based upon the matrix, Dr. Williams' opinion was that emergency regulations are not an appropriate option at this time. Given the Board's and DHHS' tremendous efforts to address regulatory changes, it would be more appropriate to pursue lower cost alternatives for the EpiPen. Dr. Miller pointed out that the State was able to pass legislation to put Narcan in the hands of anyone to use in the event of an opioid overdose when there are other options available short of giving Narcan. There is no other option besides epinephrine in the case of anaphylaxis. Dr. Miller requested assistance in pursuing legislation in the same manner as was pursued for the use of Narcan.

Tim Wilson, Program Manager of the Office of Emergency Health Systems (OEHS) shared the following:

- Rob Rowan, Staff Assistant, resigned from his position with the OEHS. Permission has been granted to fill that position. In the interim, Mr. Wilson will be handling updates to the Model Protocols.
- Julie Smithson, Southeast Region EMS Specialist, will be leaving at the end of September. Ben Leseberg, Northeast Region EMS Specialist will be taking over the Southeast region. Approval has been granted to fill the Northeast Region EMS Specialist position.
- Ali Abler was hired as the new Western Region EMS Specialist.
- Crystal Dailey, Trauma RN Specialist, graduated from a Nurse Practitioner Program and will be leaving to accept a position in that field. Approval will be requested to fill that vacancy.
- Regional Specialists will begin disseminating information to services using a newsletter to provide more consistent and uniform communication.
- The current Medi-Tedi Facebook page is being revamped to include information regarding the entire OEHS office. Approval for a Twitter account is being pursued.
- Updates to the OEHS website are temporarily on hold as Rob Rowan was the staff member responsible for that task.
- The third round of distribution of the LUCAS devices has been completed. There are carryover funds available that the OEHS will request to fund a fourth year of distribution.
- The data team is finalizing the transition to version 3.4 within our current Elite system.
- The Critical Incident Stress Management (CISM) is going well. The numbers keep increasing. The largest shortage is in the mental health provider volunteers.

- The stroke and STEMI protocols are out. There are designations for the primary stroke centers. A letter with a questionnaire will be sent out to all the non-designated hospitals to help pull in their triage and treatment/transport plans. The letter will also serve to explain LB722, the Stroke System of Care Act.
- The results from the 2017 EMS Assessment are available. The intent of the assessment was to provide a baseline for to see what areas the services need help. There was a 71% response rate to this assessment. The intent of the OEHS is to perform this assessment every two years.

Wendy Snodgrass, EMS Education Compliance Manager shared the following:

- A two-day instructor workshop was held August 26-27. All instructors were invited, 36 attended. The workshop focused on better preparing students for success including how to pass the NREMT examination.
- The OEHS is sponsoring a pilot of the flipped classroom. The idea being that the students will read the book and review the power point presentations at home then come to class prepared to apply that knowledge in scenario based exercises.
- Levels 1 & 2 of the Leadership Academy happened the last week in July. Levels 3 & 4 are scheduled for September 28 – October 1. Registration for that is still open.

Claire Covert-ByBee, Program Manager shared the following:

- Work continues on complying with the Governor's executive order to report on all chapters of regulations.
- Matthew Hayden, who was the backup Coordinator, has accepted another position in the Licensure Unit. Approval to fill that position will be requested.
- Interviews to fill the half position that works with EMS have been completed. Hopefully, that position will be filled in October.

Dr. Ernest, EMS Physician Medical Director for the OEHS shared that there has been no real resistance regarding Physician Medical Director's being held more accountable in the current draft of the rules and regulations.

Mr. Rennerfeldt shared the following information which was provided by Mr. Cerny prior to the meeting as he was unable to attend.

- The NSVFA Memorial service will be held on September 24 at the Firefighters Museum and Education Center in Kearney. The names of the two Dakota City Firefighter/EMTs that passed away in the line of duty last year will be unveiled.
- The National Benefits Summit will be held September 25-26 in Kearney. Sessions will be held on the following topics:
  - Firefighter Cancer;
  - Updates from the National Fallen Firefighters Foundations;
  - Simulation-in-Motion Trailers;

- Parochialism;
  - Effective Communications; and
  - Diversity in the Fire Service and Succession Planning.
- The National Volunteer Fire Council Fall meeting will be held September 27-29 in Kearney. There will be several committee meetings including the EMS/Rescue Section and Recruitment and Retention committees. Mark Terry with the NREMT will give a presentation on September 29.
- The Nebraska State Volunteer Firefighters Association will hold its annual meeting October 19-21 in Kearney. Discussions will be held regarding the Legislative goals for 2018.

There was no report from the Services and Providers Committee, as Mr. Wiebe was not present.

There was nothing new to report from the Education Committee.

During the Scope of Practice Committee Update, the Board discussed the Dextrose Protocol and the Hypertension in Obstetric Patients Protocol. Neither protocol is ready for Board review. Once the Scope of Practice Committee has finalized the drafts, they will be sent out by mail ballot for a decision.

On behalf of the Trauma Board, Mr. Bailey and Sherri Wren shared the following:

- The Trauma Board met September 8 and reviewed the current draft of the Trauma regulations. Ms. Wren will be making changes based on the Board's feedback and resubmitting the updated draft.
- There was no feedback for the EMS Board regarding proposed changes to the EMS regulations.
- After discussion, the Trauma Board decided that ACS should be the only method to apply for designation for the Level 1 Trauma Centers by a majority vote.
- There was discussion regarding adding an Emergency Physician to the review team. No decision was made.
- There was discussion regarding the possibility of using tele-health as a back-up for an on-call physician. There was no decision, as it is a question for legal to consider.
- The Trauma Board still has a vacancy for an EMS Dispatcher.
- There are approximately 18 hospitals up for re-designation in 2018 as well as other hospitals who will be applying for designation. The program is growing significantly.
- There are a series of regional board meetings coming up this fall. The majority of them are happening in October. This would be a good opportunity for the EMS Board to share information.

- An education meeting is scheduled for October 26 in which trauma education information is shared statewide via web-ex.
- There will be vacancies on the State and Regional Boards in 2018. More information will be provided as it becomes available.

On behalf of the Emergency Medical Services for Children (EMSC), Dr. Deegan shared the following:

- The TEEX Pediatric Disaster Course is scheduled for October 6-7 in Grand Island, Nebraska. There have been many calls for registration so the class is expected to be full. EMSC is looking for sponsors to help for breaks and lunches. The dates and locations of courses in 2018 have been set and are as follows:
  - Nebraska City – August 25-26, 2018;
  - Sioux City – September 22-23, 2018; and
  - Ogallala – October 20-21, 2018.
- Over 12,000 Day Care Flip Charts on pediatric emergency and first aid have been distributed throughout the State. A Spanish version is currently being developed.
- The Pediatric Education Through Simulation Program is updating their simulations and scenarios and training more trainers to revamp the course based on feedback from prior participants. The goal is to move toward a more scenario based course and less didactic.
- A Pediatric Education for Pre-hospital Providers ALS course will be held December 9-10.
- Marlene Bomar has joined the EMSC Advisory Committee and will be working with the EMSC grant.

On behalf of the Nebraska Emergency Medical Services Association (NEMSA), Deb Von Seggern shared the following:

- A NEMSA Strategic Planning meeting will be held at the DoubleTree in Columbus, Nebraska on November 4, 2017 at 9:00 a.m. The meeting will include discussions regarding legislative goals. An invitation is extended to the EMS Board, DHHS, and NSVFA.
- The hands on conference will be in January in Kearney.
- The annual convention will be held in March in Columbus.
- Ms. Von Seggern has been selected by the NAEMT as the education chair for the State of Nebraska.

The Nebraska State Volunteer Firefighters Association (NSVFA) update was shared by Mr. Rennerfeldt during the Legislation and Regulations Committee Update.

There was no report from the Dispatch Liaison as Jordan Dick was not present.

There was no report from the Nebraska Association of Air Medical Services liaison as Dan Duncan was not present.

Ms. Covert-ByBee provided the Board with copies of the EMS Practice Act and Chapters 11, 12, and 13 of the regulations. She went on to provide information regarding the next steps in the regulatory process. There was general conversation regarding the need to differentiate emergency and non-emergency personnel.

Dr. Smith shared that the atmosphere at the Open Forums is much more positive than when the process started. A document compiled by Ms. Jensen summarizing feedback from the open forums held in August 2018 was provided for Board review.

Margaret Brockman shared information regarding the availability of grant funds for the EMS Board to re-evaluate the Strategic Plan. The Board will plan to pursue that after July 2018.

Dr. Smith requested a written report from the Strategic Planning Subcommittee Chairs to be submitted for Board review at the December 8, 2017 meeting.

The Board was presented information regarding fentanyl exposure protection. This was for informational purposes only.

Topics for the next meeting include EpiPens and training on the use of Narcan.

Mr. Rennerfeldt moved, seconded by Ms. Bowlin to go into closed session at 12:30 p.m. to hear discussions regarding confidential information and to protect the reputation of individuals named or referenced in such discussions. Voting aye: Bailey, Boldt, Bowlin, Deegan, Fiala, Hiemer, Jensen, Miller, Rennerfeldt, and Smith. Voting nay: None. Absent: Bonta, Cerny, Harmon, LaFollette, and Wiebe. Motion carried.

Ms. Bowlin moved, seconded by Mr. Boldt to return to open session at 2:11 p.m. Voting aye: Bailey, Boldt, Bowlin, Deegan, Fiala, Hiemer, Jensen, Miller, Rennerfeldt, and Smith. Voting nay: None. Absent: Bonta, Cerny, Harmon, LaFollette, and Wiebe. Motion carried.

Mr. Bailey moved, seconded by Ms. Fiala to offer Jared Patterson a six month probationary license to practice as an Emergency Medical Technician based on his failure to report an out-of-state conviction and licensure discipline. Voting aye: Bailey, Boldt, Bowlin, Deegan, Fiala, Hiemer, Jensen, Miller, Rennerfeldt, and Smith. Voting nay: None. Absent: Bonta, Cerny, Harmon, LaFollette, and Wiebe. Motion carried.

Mr. Rennerfeldt moved, seconded by Mr. Bailey to table George Woodhull's application for licensure as an Emergency Medical Technician to obtain additional information.

Voting aye: Bailey, Boldt, Bowlin, Deegan, Fiala, Hiemer, Jensen, Miller, Rennerfeldt, and Smith. Voting nay: None. Absent: Bonta, Cerny, Harmon, LaFollette, and Wiebe. Motion carried.

Ms. Jensen moved, seconded by Mr. Rennerfeldt to table Sarah Lynn Ciano's application for licensure as an Emergency Medical Technician to obtain additional information. Voting aye: Bailey, Boldt, Bowlin, Deegan, Fiala, Hiemer, Jensen, Miller, Rennerfeldt, and Smith. Voting nay: None. Absent: Bonta, Cerny, Harmon, LaFollette, and Wiebe. Motion carried.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:14 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Scott Wiebe, Secretary